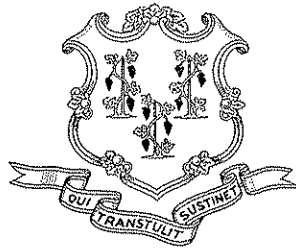


**SENATOR PAUL R. DOYLE**

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**State of Connecticut**

**SENATE**

*Ninth District*

*Assistant Majority Whip*

*Chair*

Select Committee on Aging

*Vice Chair*

General Law Committee

Select Committee on Housing

*Member*

Regulations Review

August 6, 2008

The Honorable Peter Geren  
Secretary of the United States Army  
Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-1600

Lieutenant General Robert L. Van Antwerp, Jr.  
Chief of Engineers and Commanding General  
United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)  
Headquarters  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 441 G. Street, NW,  
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Dear Secretary Geren and Lieutenant General Van Antwerp:

It is with great concern that I write to you about the outrageous behavior of individuals under your command in denying entry to myself, State Representative Joseph Serra, Mayor Sebastian N. Giuliano of Middletown, and a few Middletown City Councilors to a press conference about the proposed U.S. Army National Guard Reserve Center targeted at a parcel on Boardman Lane in the Westfield section of Middletown, Connecticut.

On July 20, 2008 I, along with Rep. Serra and Mayor Giuliano, presented ourselves to individuals posted at the entrance door to the publicly noticed press conference regarding the proposed Reserve Center that was held at the Inn at Middletown. We were told that it was a closed meeting and that we were not allowed into the press conference. Despite our explanations regarding our intentions to simply listen and observe for our constituents, we were again denied entry.

This meeting was advertised as a press conference and many members of the press attended. To add insult to injury, your staff did permit entry to ONE elected official – Attorney General Richard Blumenthal. While I respect Mr. Blumenthal, I do not think it was acceptable to allow entry to him and deny entry to myself and the other elected officials.

The Honorable Peter Geren  
Lieutenant General Robert L. Van Antwerp, Jr.  
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August 6, 2008

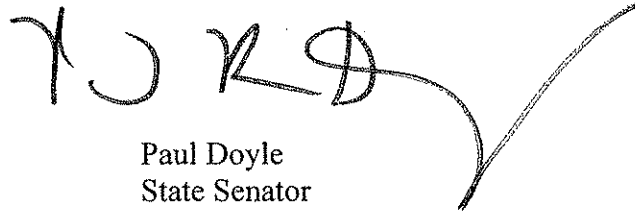
In my over 17 years in public office, I have never been subjected to this sort of treatment by a government agency that limited my ability to perform my responsibilities as an elected official. I find it unacceptable that an agency of our federal government would act in this way.

More troubling than the denied access to me and other elected officials was the fact that the general public was also prohibited from entering the press conference. I question if such a closed meeting was legal under the federal freedom of information statutes. In addition and in light of the controversy surrounding this project, I would think that the Army would desire to maximize communication with the public that it was attempting to assuage to its point of view.

Therefore, I would ask that you immediately investigate this important matter and send me a written response that provides an explanation for such outrageous behavior by the federal government.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Doyle', followed by a long, sweeping checkmark-like flourish.

Paul Doyle  
State Senator

cc: The Honorable Christopher J. Dodd, United States Senator  
The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman, United States Senator  
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, United States Congresswoman  
The Honorable John B. Larson, United States Congressman  
The Honorable M. Jodi Rell, Governor, State of Connecticut  
The Honorable Richard Blumenthal, Attorney General  
The Honorable Sebastian N. Giuliano, Mayor of Middletown  
The Honorable Joseph C. Serra, State Representative